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Kowbasniuk tour - Ukraine 1965

Subject: BAUHYNASKA, Varga from N.Y. her tour of Ukraine July 1965

Date: 23 Sept. 1965

Source: R.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Subject went to visit her sister in Lviv. No data about subject since interview was held with subjects husband in an informal manner in a bar in N.Y.
2. In Lviv subject was amazed at the amount of people who speak Russian. Her first impression was that Russian is spoken "loudly, but Ukrainian can be heard spoken softly". The signs on the streets are bi-lingual, Russian and Ukrainian. This is more evident in Kiev, where Russian is by far the predominant language, but if a person is approached in Ukrainian, he will reply in Ukrainian. Most street signs in Kiev are Russian. In Ternopil, Ukrainian is the predominant language spoken. All street signs are written in Ukrainian.
3. Ukrainian books are very hard to obtain in Lviv. Subject went to many kiosks and could only find a few Ukrainian books on sale, this held true for Kiev, but not to such a great extent. In Ternopil, Ukrainian books are easy to buy, and the supply is large.
4. The food situation is good. In Lviv most food stuffs can be bought at present. The prices vary from city to city, with Kiev being the least expensive, and Lviv the most. A dinner in Kiev would cost 1.40 rubles, while the same in Lviv would cost 2.80 rubles.
5. In Kiev the group was invited to the Association for cultural contacts with Ukrainians abroad. There they were met by a retired general (name unknown) and a few writers. On the way to KANIV subject noticed a "Ukrainian beatnik reading poetry by Korotych" this incident took place on the ferry to Kaniv.
6. Subject noticed that the attitude of the intourist guide was different towards different members of group. Very friendly towards older people in tour, reserved

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towards younger members. This attitude towards younger members changed as tour progressed. The girl who was a young girl asked the members of the tour at the very begining not to talk about problems which are painful for them, and her.

7. In Kiev subject saw film "Tini Zabitych Predkiw" (Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors) and praised the film very much. The film was in Ukrainian, but all the people who were watching it (there was a full house) spoke Russian as soon as it ended. In Kiev subject was approached by children who traded variuos things for ball-point pens. One child gave subject his Pioneer medal, another gave a small bottle of whiskey. This trading goes on, although the militia upon catching a child trading, or asking tourists for souveniers will scold them.

8. In Kiev there was recently opened an American style bar in the hotel Dnipro, in this bar all American drinks can be bought, as well as cigarettes. Subject noticed that the best way to start a conversation with almost anyone is to open a packet of American cigarettes. This will usually attract people who want to talk about most anything.

9. Group was asked a few times by variuos people why more young people dont come and visit Ukraine. They are very welcome, and if the expenses are too much, maybe some kind of agreement could be made. Young children were asked to come for summer camps.

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Subject: HRYTSIV, Roman; his trip to Poland in July 1965

Date: 22 September 1965

1. Subject lives at 102 East 7th st. New York, 9, N.Y. He is single, age 55. Subject visited his sister in PEREMYSEL from 14 July for a period lasting 3 weeks. Subject was on a personal visit and did not engage in conversations with local population, in addition the fact that there was constantly rainfall he was limited to his near family. Subject also visited his family in the KOSHALINSKY Povit (~~region~~) for a few days.
2. The number of Ukrainians in PEREMYSEL is hard to fix. The number given is usually a few thousand, but of those, most do not confess to being Ukrainians, and converse only in Polish. Of those that admit their Ukrainian nationality, the Ukrainian language is used only at home, when talking with their children, and in a close family circle. At present if a person happens to talk Ukrainian loudly on the street he might be bothered by local Poles. In this respect PEREMYSEL is an exception. Subject met a group of 60 Ukrainian tourists, mostly youth from LUBLINSCHYNYA who were talking loudly and demonstratively in Ukrainian on the street. In a conversation with them, subject found out that they were going to visit Ukraine for 3 weeks, that this trip is costing them 1,800 zloty (\$ 25.00) and that they will receive additional funds (50 rubles) for expenses, from the Association for Contacts with Foreign Nations. This group was not bothered by the local Polish population, with the exception of people paying some attention to them. Ukrainian is spoken quite freely in the KOSHALINSKY Povit, with an interesting sidelight being that Ukrainians are highly respected by the Poles as being good workers and citizens. This is interesting since Ukrainians were looked upon with distrust for a long period of time due to the fact that when they were first resettled, the government assured everyone that they were "bandits".
3. In PEREMYSEL there are 3 Ukrainian priests, (catholics) who say mass Sunday in a Polish church (Roman catholic). The local church choir is poor, but ~~manages~~

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to exist. People complain about cardinal VYSHINSKY, saying that he is responsible for the destruction of Ukrainian catholic churches and that he was against letting threat Ukrainian priests into PEREMYSRL. He gave his approval only under the ~~treat~~ that the people would convert to orthodoxy.

There is a conflict among the people about packages received from the west. The committee which is in charge of dividing the packages, has been accused of thievery. Another factor which led to the fight is that there are certain people who behave very much as Poles, at the same time writing and asking for packages from the west.

The population is afraid of war, they are also afraid of a return of the underground belieiving that the Poles would completely destroy them if such did return. Ukraine is considered their fatherland, and many travel there as often as possible. Since July it is possible to travel to Ukraine on just an invitation from relatives. Ukrainian radio and television programs are watched (by those who own radio and television sets.) Subject saw a program from Kiev called "Ukrainian literature and the contemporary world" where 4 poets and writers spoke about Ukrainian patriotic elements in literature. Subject commented that there was no mention of socialist realism at all, and the overall impression was very good. Subject does not remember the names of the participating writers.

4. The blame for russification in the western part of Ukraine (the part they are best acquainted with) is put on the local population. Subject heard from a friend of his MEDVED, Ivan about the following incident: MEDVED'S brother, Osyp, who died 2 years ago , taught at a Ukrainian secondary school in Lviv. At one class (after the death of Stalin) some Russian students began to demand that the lessons be taught in Russian, since they were from Russia . O. replied that since they were in a Ukrainian school, they should know the language, and if they want instruction to be given in the Russian language they should attend a Russian school. This did not satisfy the Russian students and they went before the director of the school to complain. The director supported O. MEDVED added that there are some Ukrainians who did change the language of instruction to Russian. O. was not repressed for his position.

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5. Communications between PEREMYSZL and Ukraine are very good. This is due to the large amount ~~of~~ travel by train and bus between the two places. Subject had an opportunity to observe train travel between Lviv and PEREMYSZL. He observed that the trains were always crowded (from Lviv to Peremyszl) and that the train is on a larger grade. Khrakov But when the train is scheduled to go further (~~Hanover~~ or Prague), the cars are lifted individually on an automatic lift and the grade of the wheels is changed (to a smaller size). When the train returns to the USSR the wheels are changed again.

6. Subject had conversations about cultural exchange, and all the people were for this.

7. In Prague subject met a group of tourists from Ukraine who were returning home by bus. The driver of the bus was from Peremyszl, and he and subject had common friends. The bus driver agreed to take a note to these friends, but refused to carry subjects ~~whose~~ address on notes, saying that in case of a border check, he does not want to be caught. Subject also met a group of Soviet tourists in a Prague restaurant who were singing Russian songs, and ended the evening singing Maritchka. There was no conversation with them.

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